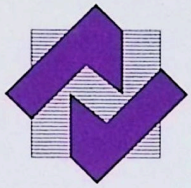
Dec. 16, 1989



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Stephanie Leonard
Whole Earth Institute
Sausalito, CA 94965

Dear Stephanie,

Thanks for the information about the Whole Earth Institute and its programs. I am interested in supporting your efforts because I believe that concentration on environmental issues offers a value centered way out of the old ideological Socialist vs. Capitalist divsion of the world.

The fact is not that Capitalism has succeeded and Socialism been discredited by the events in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Neither political tendency has concentrated on stopping the tremendous harm being done to the world by unlimited industrial expansion, population growth and consumerism as a way of life. In this time, we need another amalgam of ideas to preserve the conditions for life and the development of culture.

I went to a speech by Frithjof Capra the other night where he talked about the need for "community" to address the many issues of resource use, environmental protection and quality of life. While I applauded the idea that we should band together to share increasingly scarce resources, there is a lot of work to be done to make sure that communal ideas promote the individual's growth as well.

Community is a very explosive and dicey idea, as witnessed by how quickly the family farm, the small rural town, the tribal village disintegrates when the temptations of modern urban options are presented. What kind of a community can be created by the will and desire of people? How can shoulds and shouldn'ts be replaced by want tos?

I have no money to contribute right now, and that usually goes along with not having much time either. However I am interested in what you are doing and I have a lot of respect for Paul.

I would be happy to meet with anyone to discuss your plans further.

All the best,

Rob Nilsson

Rob Nilsson

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